

maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works. During the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07 (upto February), a total of 41 food processing units have been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1443.31 lakhs in the State of West Bengal including Northern part of West Bengal. The year-wise details of financial assistance approved is as below:

Year	No. of unit	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2004-05	13	430.79
2005-2006	9	435.41
2006-2007 (upto February)	19	577.11
TOTAL:	41	1443.31

Mid-Day Meal in Andhra Pradesh

581. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of children covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh has come down during the last three years *i.e.* from 90,81,299 in 2004-05 to about 60 lakhs in 2006-07;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for reduction in coverage in the State;

(c) whether it is a fact that assistance for cooking cost for States other than the North-Eastern State is only Rs. 1.50 paise;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether new guidelines have been formulated for Mid-Day Meal Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details of the revised guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the figure of 90,81,299 shown in the year 2004-05 for Mid-Day Meal included children studying in

schools run by un-aided managements. For the year 2006-07, the figure of 73,00,000 has been arrived at in respect of children studying in Government, Local Body, Aided Schools and EGS Centres, excluding un-aided schools.

(c) and (d) The total cooking cost for mid-day meal is Rs. 2/-, of which Central Assistance is available @ Rs. 1.80 per child per school day for States in the North East Region (NER) and Rs. 1.50 per child per school day in other States. Keeping in view the difficult terrain in the NER, State contribution is minimum of Rs. 0.20 in the case of NER and Rs. 0.50 in the case of other States.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. Guidelines of revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme have been issued in September, 2006. The revised guidelines provide:—

- (i) Nutritional norm of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein.
- (ii) Assistance for cooking cost as per details in (c) and (d) above.
- (iii) The revised guidelines reiterate the importance of convergence with other development programmes for construction of kitchen sheds. However, where convergence is not possible, assistance @ Rs. 60,000 per unit for construction of kitchen-cum-store and Rs 5,000 per school for kitchen devices are provided.
- (iv) Guidelines also provide for convergence with National Rural Health Mission for necessary interventions such as regular health checkup supplementation of micronutrients and de-worming medicines etc.

Identification of universities and colleges for quality education

582. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Programme for Promotion of Quality and Excellence in Education, the University Grants Commission has identified universities and colleges:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concept of securing accreditation by the National Academic Accreditation Council for quality in education is catching up with a large number of unrecognized colleges and universities; and